



2009-2010 Officers

Grand Knight
Julio Alvarez, Jr

Deputy Grand Knight
Scott Sheffield

Chancellor
John Montaldo

Warden
Darin O'Neal

Treasurer
Steve Haines

Advocate
Jim Kelly

Recorder
Shawn Ryan

Inside Guard
Roger Spinelli

Outside Guards
Mike Grogan
Ed Sleyzak

Trustees
Three Years—
Nick Turco, PGK
Two Years—
Ed Milius, PGK
One Year—
John Cirello,

Field Agent
Thomas P. Cummings III
813-625-2444
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Thomas.Cummings@kofc.org

Knightly News

CALENDAR

November

Nov 13	4th Degree Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM
Nov 14	Respect Life Rosary 5:45 AM
Nov 14	Casino "K"night
Nov 15	Parish Picnic
Nov 18	Faith & Morals Program 6:30 PM Church MPR
Nov 21	2nd Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM School
Nov 21	Squires Investiture
Nov 22	Buc's Football Game vs New Orleans 8:00 AM—School
Nov 26	Thanksgiving
Nov 27-29	4th Degree Exemplification—Orlando

December

Dec 2	Admissions Committee Mtg 6:00 PM Church
Dec 2	Mass 7:00 PM Church
Dec 2	Monthly Business Meeting 8:00 PM Church MPR
Dec 8	Immaculate Conception
Dec 11	4th Degree Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM
Dec 12	Respect Life Rosary 6:45 AM
Dec 12	VA Hospital Christmas Party
Dec 13	Buc's Football Game vs NY Jets 8:00 AM—Church
Dec 19	1st Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM St. Stephen's School
Dec 19	KofC Christmas Party / Family Social
Dec 25	Christmas

January

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 3	Buc's Football Game vs Atlanta 8:00 AM—Church
Jan 6	Admissions Committee Mtg 6:00 PM Church
Jan 6	Mass 7:00 PM Church
Jan 6	Monthly Business Meeting 8:00 PM Church MPR
Jan 12	1st Degree Exemplification 7:30 PM Nativity
Jan 13	Faith & Morals Program 6:30 PM Church MPR
Jan 16	2nd Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM School

Happy Thanksgiving



Directors and Committee Chairmen

Membership Director

John Kulesa (600-5407)
John.kulesa@earthlink.net

Program Director

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Council Committee

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Columbian Squires

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Grand Knight's Report

Brother Knights & Families.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

First, a hearty **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS** who joined us following our Fall Membership Blitz conducted during the Parish Ministry Fair. The 'first half' of our Applicants for this effort joined us in Ceremonies conducted first at Prince of Peace and subsequently our 'large' group at St Stephen on October 17th. These Brothers consisted of a class of Candidates totaling 14 new Members to our St Stephen Council! Moreover, we were truly blessed at having **Father Mike** in attendance as the Honoree for our Degree this month. The 'second half' of the approved Candidates will be taking their first degrees over the next two months. Brothers, I cannot begin to over-emphasize the importance of our Sponsors in ensuring that we all mentor our new Brothers, help them learn of the Order, grow in our Faith, and most importantly ensure they have the opportunity to 'get involved' and share their unique and valued gifts in the service of our Lord!

'GETTING & STAYING INVOLVED'

I want you to ask yourself why you became a Knight? What drew you to become involved in this unique and historically significant organization founded by a Parish Priest? I've personally attended almost every Admissions Committee we've held as a Council over the past 3 ½ years since our Charter; without exception, every applicant who sat before the Committee has expressed the same desire to 'give back' to the Faith Community from they received so much in their life journeys. Additionally, recall how you expressed your desire to use your God-given talents to make a difference in your Community. As you can clearly see, these are expressions not of one or two, but of almost every sin-



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gle new member of our Council. Therefore, I ask you...are you truly being involved? Are you, when you are able, contributing your God-given talents to his service and to his glory? The strength of our Order comes from its many talented and faith driven members standing in Unity to make a difference in this world, especially in times of trouble and despair. Where leadership and good examples are most needed – we stand together to bring forward the positive leadership that stands for something more than the selfishness and pettiness we are often bombarded with in the media today. What better example is there for our families, children, friends, parishioners and members of our Community than our physical exemplification of our valued principles of **Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism**. Brother – the simple message is this – **BE INVOLVED** in the life of our Council. Even the smallest contribution of **YOUR TIME & TALENT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. Don't feel that if you have been away you have done something wrong – in fact the exact opposite is true...we realize you would be with us if you could, we miss you and want you to come and enjoy the sincere and infectious spirit of fraternity inherent to our St Stephen Council Family.

This month, where we as a Nation celebrate and give thanks for the many gifts bestowed upon us - due to the many sacrifices of our founders and ancestors - think about what you can do to 'repay' some of those selfless gifts. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, and especially this St Stephen Council, you are in the enviable position to be a part of an Organization with the structure to facilitate your ability to share your gifts with others. In our very short life as Council, we have established some of the most active and successful Service Programs that I have personally witnessed. Through the leadership of our amazing Service Program Directors, and the tireless members of their respective Committees,



we've been able to focus our efforts and effectively deliver the programs which have made a difference in our Community. **ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF ONE OF OUR SERVICE PROGRAM COMMITTEES?** Our Committees provide the platform for you to share your talents and through which you can advance your vision and ideas by enlisting the hands, minds and hearts of your Brother Knights towards that end. Our Committees consist of programs focused on **MEMBERSHIP, CHURCH, COMMUNITY, COUNCIL, FAMILY, YOUTH** and our newest Program Committee...**PRO-LIFE**. Which committee does the Holy Spirit guide you to in your Prayers? Please note the names and contact information of YOUR Service Program Directors and don't wait another minute...contact them right away. Even a little contribution of time or talent from every Brother Knight will ensure that...**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Finally, my family and I wish you and your Families a Blessed and safe Thanksgiving.

VIVAT JESUS!

Julio

Keep in our Prayers



- **PFC Devin J. Michel**, nephew of Sir Knight Tom Michel, who was killed in action on 24 OCT 09 while conducting combat operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was 19 years old, recently married (anniversary 03 OCT 08), and had only been in combat for approximately 4 months of a 12 month tour.
- Sir Knight Charles Grady who passed away a few weeks ago
- Alberta Hoeber, wife of PGK Lester Hoeber at Prince of Peace, who past away
- Two of **Ed Sleyzak's** employees who survived a very serious truck accident
- **Herb and Judy Swoope** who are recovering from surgeries
- Brother **Ed Sleyzak's** sister, **Marianne** who is showing improvement in her struggles with lung cancer
- **Our Brothers** who are experiencing the hardship of job loss and the associated stresses.

Mary, Queen of the Knights, Pray for Us.

Family of the Month
Jim and Melissa Kelly

For their legal help to Knights and their families especially in times of need

Knight of the Month
Glen Mercer

For his never ending willingness to help the Knight's fund raising efforts by volunteering to work numerous games at the stadium

NEXT FAITH & MORALS PROGRAM

(Wednesday, November 18th - following 7 pm Mass)

John Wilbur of Lifepath Hospice will share the Hospice Story and cover such subjects as: *What is Hospice care? How to be admitted? Who pays for Hospice Care? And Questions about Hospice?*

Please plan on attending, and encourage others as well - as this will be open to the entire parish community.



Chaplain's Report



My Brother Knights

Of all the nations of the world, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving as no other. While many other cultures have harvest festivals, ours is profoundly different. More than any other holiday, we travel to spend time with extended family and friends. Through a meal and fellowship, we recall our ancestors who journeyed to this New World in order to escape tyranny and to live and worship in freedom. On that first Thanksgiving, they gathered not to count their woes but to give thanks for the gift of freedom, for their very lives, food and shelter, and for the new friends they encountered in this land of hope. We admire how they fled tyranny, overcame adversity, and

“In all things give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thes 5:18

opened their hearts to a people who were very different than themselves. They were people of faith who recognized that all they accomplished was the result of God's grace and mercy and their hearts overflowed with gratitude.

As Catholics, these themes resonate deeply within our hearts. We are people of Thanksgiving. Indeed, as the Council Fathers remind us, the source and summit of our faith is the Eucharist - a Greek term which means Thanksgiving. Each Sunday we gather to celebrate the quintessential thanksgiving meal - the Holy Mass. We recall how God has worked throughout time to liberate from the tyranny of sin. We receive both the direction and nourishment we need to journey into our Eternal Homeland.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to recall with your family the roots of this wonderful holiday. While the turkey is slowly roasting in the oven, come to Mass at 10 am. Give thanks to our Creator for all the blessings you have received. Ever mindful of the poor, the offertory collection will be given to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society to be distributed to those in need throughout the holiday season. You are also strongly encouraged to bring im-

perishable food items. The children will bring them up with our gifts and place them around our altar.

I encourage you to invite others to join you for the meal. We all have friends, neighbors, or coworkers who have lost loved ones or who are living alone. They would love to be welcomed to your family celebration. No one should eat alone on Thanksgiving.

While we always keep an eye on the football games, my family has always taken time to simply enjoy each other's company. For the past few years, we've played football, built forts, and raced go carts. Once I was even tied to a tree by the hostile little natives! Now that the kids are older, the time together is even more important. I enjoy listening as they share all that God is doing in their lives.

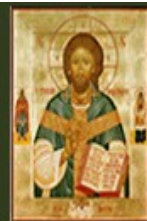
This Thanksgiving, let's follow the admonition of St. Paul and give thanks to God for all things. Let us resolve to worship God at Mass, open our hearts and homes to those in need, and spend quality time with our loved ones.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fr. Bill Swengros

YEAR FOR PRIESTS

June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010





Field Agent 's Report

November is the month when we remember in a special way those Brother Knights who have passed on to their eternal reward. All of our councils will honor their memory with a Memorial Mass. Did you know that the 8AM Mass everyday of the year at St Mary's Church in New Haven is celebrated in remembrance of our past Knights? It is also a time to remember them in our prayers at our

meeting for all the good they have done for our local councils.

Beneficiary Forms - I have just completed my 145 death claim assisting Brother Knights, their widows and families. Most of the time they have no idea of who the beneficiary of their insurance policies, their 401ks, Roth IRAs and IRAs are. When did you last review yours? This is especially important after the death of a spouse or after any marital changes. Why not check your paperwork?

Now?

Graded Death Benefit Whole Life - Are you aware that you can now apply for a Whole Life Policy with the Order, even if you are uninsurable? it is a great way to provide for final expenses. Want information, give me a call.

Tom Cummings
Field Agent
625-2444

Knights participate in October 11th Corporate Communion Mass



In early October, Nick Turco had the opportunity to meet with Father John in Coimbatore, India. He is doing very well and wanted to thank the Knights, Rita Joyce, and Jennifer Bergen for their generous support of his school.

The picture on the left is of Father John's nephew who was ordained a priest this year and shown here celebrating his first mass.

Father John in India



Membership Report

October was a very busy month for us. We welcomed fourteen new First Degree Brothers to our Council. On Saturday October 17th, we had the following join our Brotherhood. Please welcome Richard

learning to better practice our Faith. I encourage each and every one of you, whether working towards a degree or sponsoring a potential Candidate, to make the effort to grow as a Knight by taking an active part in achieving the requirements to advancement in the Order.

Finally, please continue your efforts to build the Council and the Order by recruiting quality Catholic Gentlemen with the energy and spirit to make a difference in our Community.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WORK ON YOUR ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS!

As always I look forward to any ideas on how to improve our membership recruitment. Anyone who is interested in joining the Membership Committee is welcome.



Lechowich, Mitchell Farrell, Stephen Bertoni, Scott Young, Joe Alfonso, Franscio Colon, Aaron Bolton, Carlos Ayala, James, Branciforte, Charles Muforo, Don Moody, Timothy Childers, Keih Remson and Jeff Stephanz. Please congratulate and welcome them into our Council.

I would like to thank all of the Brothers that have been attending and assisting with our degrees. It makes a very positive statement, especially to our new First degree members when they see a room full of Brothers ready to welcome them into our Council.

We will be holding a Second Degree on November 21st at St. Stephen School. The start time for the Degree will be 9:00 AM. Approved Candidates with Sponsors are expected to arrive no later than 8 am with observing members arriving no later than 8:50 am. Dress Code is Casual. Questions about Admissions should be directed to our Admissions Coordination Team Leader, **Sir Knight John Kulesa** at Email: john.kulesa@earthlink.net, Phone: **813.380.4653**.

Being a Knight means being involved and learning about our Order, our Principles, and most importantly,

Fraternally,

John Kulesa



Father Mike

The First Degree Honoree



Fundraising at RJS Through 7 events this year, the council has earned more than \$7,000. We have three more games to go. Our thanks to those who have spent long Sundays helping the council earn money to fund many of our charitable activities

Gentlemen, Brothers, and Family,

Mark Your Calendars!

Our Spiritual Day of Reflection has been confirmed for Saturday, January 30th at the House of Prayer in Clearwater. We expect this to be one of the highlights of the fraternal year and would hope that you can attend. It will be from 9am to 5p or so, and your only financial obligation will be \$9 for lunch. We are currently discerning a theme for the event and welcome any thoughts or ideas. Fr Bill has agreed to lead us in our efforts to become closer to Jesus Christ and his wishes for our lives.

Welcome and Pray for our newest Program Director

As you may already know, Pro-Life has been elevated by the Supreme Council from a sub-committee of the Community Program to a program on its own. The Council has been blessed by the willingness of Anthony Corte to lead this program in what is surely one of the most challenging environments for protecting life most of us have ever seen. Please pray for him as he leads this committee, and if you feel so moved by the Holy Spirit, join him as one of its members. He is currently in need of a deputy and willing hands to help. You can contact him at anthony@antlac.com or 813-545-9881. May God bless him and his efforts!

Deputy Grand Knight 's Report



Community Activities

VAVS Events

On Saturday, October 17th, 65 Knights, families and friends gathered for a traditional "Sock Hop, 50s/60s" night at the Best Western Hotel in Brandon. With such a wonderful turn out the dance was a complete success. This event was a fundraiser for VAVS which will use it to support of our veterans programs. Many of our brothers were unrecognizable to their fellow Knights with their "50-60s" costumes were just that good. Along with the "oldies" music, which brought back fond memories, there was a "silent auction", "hula hoop" and "twist" dance contest. The proceeds of this event make it possible for VAVS to help our heroes. We were able to raise \$1,000.00 to support our Veterans. Many thanks to all who supported this event.

Some photos from the Sock Hop - 50s/60s Night



Finalists in the Sock Hops Best Costume Contest.
Now on to Woodstock, eh?



Julio Alvarez and Mike Grogan



Guess who? Bet your wrong.
Answer on next page!



Tom and Bonnie Cummings



Phil Primacio goin' wild!



Please note that our annual Christmas party for veterans is scheduled for December 12th beginning at 11:00 AM at the VA hospital. Last year over 100 knights, family and friends attended the event. These parties break the "long days" all our vets endure. They, for a time, become part of our brotherhood and it means a lot to them. We greatly encourage our fellow Knights and their families to take the time to come out and make this a powerful event. When you make a visit to the hospital you begin to realize just how much our vets have done for us and our freedoms. The rewards for your support are great. Also, many kudos to Sir Knight Herb Swoope, Assembly 1850 VAVS chair, who was instrumental in producing this outstanding event and acted as DJ and Emcee.



Last years VA Christmas Party

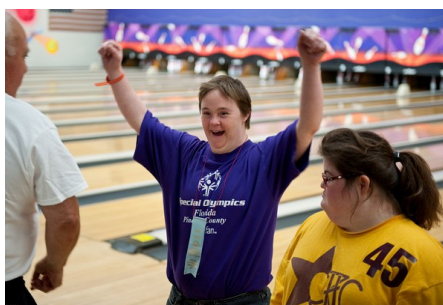
Special Olympics

Knight Bill Smith and family attended this years Special Olympics Fall Classic and had a great time.

Florida State Council reports the "Special Olympics Fall Classic was a great success. It was great to see so many Knights and their families there volunteering. A special thanks goes out to Kissimmee council 6624 and Winter Haven council 4726 for their great turnout as a group. Photos from the

Fall Classic can be seen here: www.photoknight.net/KofC/09sofc. Even if you didn't attend, please take the time to see the smiles on these athletes faces. Your donations helped make this possible. There were twelve hundred and twenty athletes competing in various sports. Athletes and their families pay nothing for these events, Special Olympics pays for it all."

The next big event will be the Special Olympics Summer Games to be held on May 14 & 15, 2010 at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. More to come later!



A winner in this years Special Olympics



Competitors concentrating on doing well.

Adopt a Road

Our next road clean up is scheduled to occur in January 2010. Look for specific information in next months newsletter.



Volunteers from our last Road Clean-up

Many Thanks!



Sir Knight Herb Swoope

Lastly, we want to take some time to thank Herb Swoope for his many months of inspired work and leadership as our Council Community Director. He and his fellow committee members have contributed greatly to 14084's reputation and has delivered true blessings to his fellow Knights and injured veterans. Herb will still be involved but will be concentrating his personal efforts on Assembly 1850's VAVS programs. Effective November 1st, Knight Mike Grogan has relinquished his Officer position as Outer Guard and assumed the duties and responsibilities as our new Community Director. We wish him well in these new efforts for our Council.